

News Release

Wayne National Forest • Public Affairs Office • 13700 US HWY 33
Nelsonville, Ohio 45764-9880 • Voice (740) 753-0101
Web: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gary C. Chancey, Public Affairs Officer (740) 753-0862
or Chad Wilberger, Recreation Program Manager (740) 753- 0884

Forest Visitors to be Surveyed on Wayne National Forest

Interviews will occur from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009

Nelsonville, Ohio (September 25, 2008) – Beginning in October, you'll see US Forest Service and contract employees interviewing the public in developed and dispersed recreation sites on the Wayne National Forest in southeastern Ohio. The Forest was last surveyed in 2004. Now five years later, the Forest is seeking to update their information to look at recreation trends over time.

The Wayne is partnering with Ohio University and Ohio University Southern to help conduct interviews of visitors to Wayne National Forest. The Information collected in this national study will be used by Congress, regional & state level planning as well as Forest planning. The more they know about the visitors, especially their satisfaction and desires, the better managers can provide for their needs.

The interviewer's will be wearing bright orange vests and be near a sign that says "Traffic Survey Ahead." These well trained workers want to know about your visit to the national forest. Interviews will occur from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. All information you give is confidential and the survey is voluntary. In fact, a person's name is never written anywhere on the survey.

Although the survey is entirely voluntary, the Wayne would appreciate if visitors would pull up and answer a few questions. It's important for them to talk with local people using the forest, as well as out-of-area visitors, so all types of visitors are represented in the study.

The basic interview lasts about 8 minutes. Every other visitor is asked a few additional questions which may take an additional 5 minutes. The questions visitors are asked include: where they recreated on the forest, how many people they traveled with, how long they were on the forest, what other recreation sites they visited while on the forest, and how satisfied they were with the facilities and services provided. About a third of the visitors will be asked to complete a confidential survey on recreation spending during their trip.

The information is also useful for local community tourism planning. Forest and tourism planners want to know how satisfied people were with their visit and the economic impact of recreation visits on the local economy.

The Wayne National Forest offers the public several recreation and trail opportunities in southeastern Ohio. The Forest has approximately 74 miles of horse trails, 121 miles of all-terrain vehicle trails, 200 miles of mountain bike trails, and 366 miles of hiking trails. The Wayne also has 47 recreation sites that include campgrounds, picnic sites and shelters, boat launches and swim sites.

For more information, contact a local Wayne National Forest office in Nelsonville, (740) 753-0101; Pedro, (740) 534-6500; Marietta, (740) 373-9055. If you have any questions about this program, you can visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum> or call Leon LaVigne at 414-297-1313.

###